



NEWS RELEASE



For Release: Wednesday, December 17, 2014

14-2288-PHI

MID-ATLANTIC INFORMATION OFFICE: Philadelphia, Pa.

Technical information: (215) 597-3282 • BLSInfoPhiladelphia@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic/

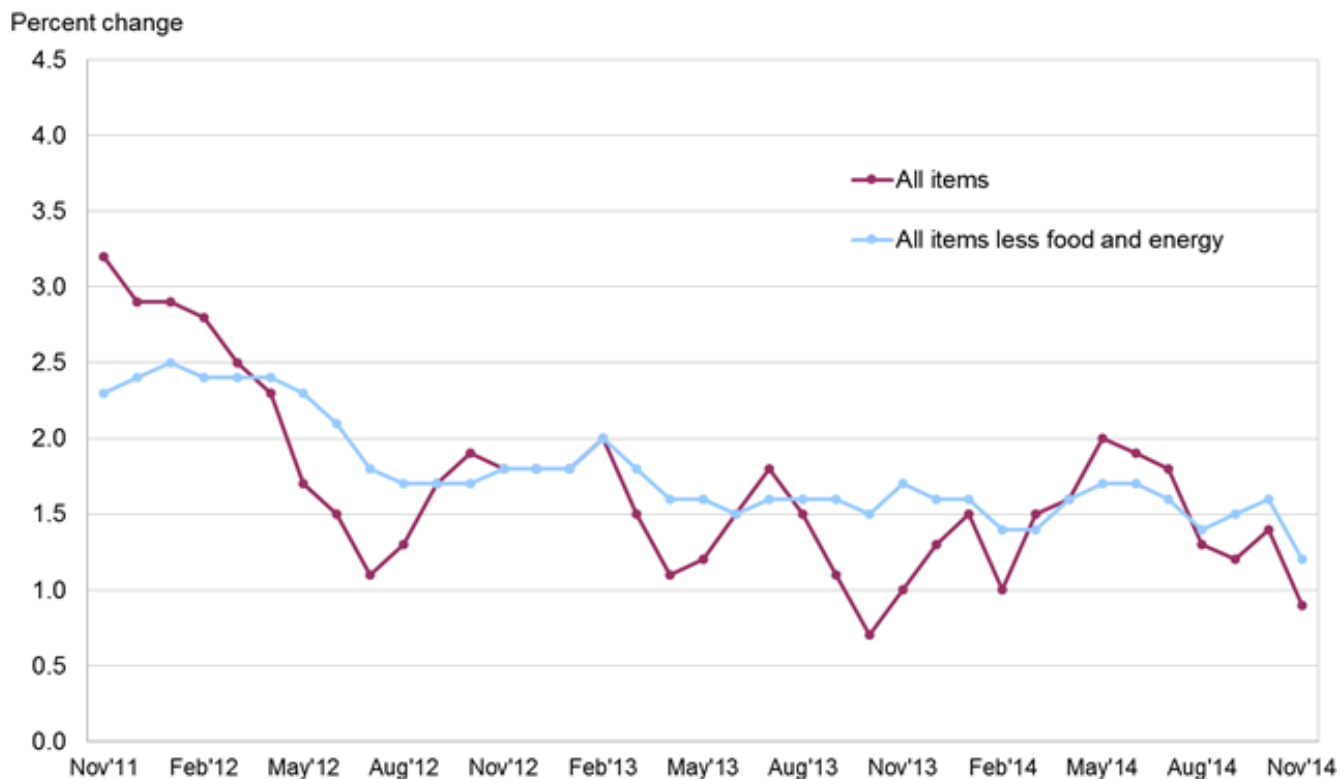
Media contact: (215) 861-5600 • BLSMediaPhiladelphia@bls.gov

Consumer Price Index, Northeast Region - November 2014 Regional Prices Down 0.4 Percent Over the Month; Up 0.9 Percent Over the Year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Northeast declined 0.4 percent in November, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. A 2.9-percent decline in the energy index since October was joined by decreases in the all items less food and energy index and the food index, down 0.2 and 0.1 percent, respectively. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U increased 0.9 percent, due mainly to an advance in the all items less food and energy index, up 1.2 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The food index also rose since November 2013, up 2.9 percent, while the energy index declined 4.9 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. 12-month percent change in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), Northeast region, November 2011 to November 2014 (not seasonally adjusted)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Over the month, food prices inched down 0.1 percent. Prices for the food at home component edged down 0.2 percent, while those for food away from home inched up 0.1 percent since October.

Over the year, the food index advanced 2.9 percent. Prices were higher for both the food at home and food away from home components, up 3.0 and 2.6 percent, respectively, since November 2013.

Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, declined for the sixth consecutive month, down 11.6 percent since May and 2.9 percent since October. The one-month decrease was due to a 7.8-percent drop in gasoline prices—the largest decline since December 2008. Prices rose for electricity (3.1 percent) and utility (piped) gas service (3.6 percent) in November.

Energy prices declined over the year, down 4.9 percent, due almost entirely to a 10.3-percent decrease in gasoline prices. Utility (piped) gas service prices were also lower since November 2013, down 3.5 percent, while electricity prices rose 5.2 percent over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy declined by 0.2 percent over the month, led by a 2.2-percent seasonal decrease in apparel prices. Lower prices for household furnishings and operations (-0.9 percent) and education and communication (-0.2 percent) also contributed to the decline. A price increase for medical care (0.3 percent), among others, moderated the decline in the all items less food and energy index since October.

The all items less food and energy index rose 1.2 percent over the year. The advance primarily reflected a 2.3-percent increase in prices for shelter. Additional increases in the medical care index (2.3 percent) and several others were moderated by decreases in the indexes for household furnishings and operations (-1.6 percent) and recreation (-0.7 percent).

Table A. Northeast region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January	0.2	0.5	0.4	3.0	0.4	1.6	0.4	2.9	0.3	1.8	0.6	1.5
February	0.6	0.7	0.0	2.5	0.5	2.0	0.4	2.8	0.6	2.0	0.1	1.0
March	0.2	0.2	0.3	2.6	0.8	2.5	0.5	2.5	0.0	1.5	0.5	1.5
April	0.2	-0.1	0.2	2.5	0.5	2.8	0.3	2.3	-0.1	1.1	0.0	1.6
May	0.1	-0.8	0.2	2.6	0.5	3.2	-0.1	1.7	0.0	1.2	0.4	2.0
June	0.8	-1.2	-0.1	1.7	0.1	3.4	-0.2	1.5	0.1	1.5	0.0	1.9
July	0.1	-1.9	0.0	1.6	0.2	3.6	-0.1	1.1	0.2	1.8	0.1	1.8
August	0.3	-1.2	0.1	1.4	0.3	3.8	0.5	1.3	0.2	1.5	-0.3	1.3
September	0.1	-0.7	-0.1	1.2	0.1	4.0	0.5	1.7	0.1	1.1	0.0	1.2
October	0.0	0.2	0.3	1.5	-0.1	3.6	0.1	1.9	-0.4	0.7	-0.2	1.4
November	0.2	2.0	0.2	1.5	-0.1	3.2	0.2	1.8	0.1	1.0	-0.4	0.9
December	-0.1	2.8	0.0	1.6	-0.3	2.9	-0.3	1.8	0.0	1.3		

The December 2014 Consumer Price Index for the Northeast region is scheduled to be released on January 16, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and

the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Northeast region is comprised of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Northeast Region, (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted)

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Sep. 2014	Oct. 2014	Nov. 2014	Nov. 2013	Sep. 2014	Oct. 2014
All items		253.154	252.730	251.781	0.9	-0.5	-0.4
All items (December 1977 = 100)		398.640	397.972	396.478			
Food and beverages		249.219	249.505	249.408	2.7	0.1	0.0
Food		249.189	249.557	249.386	2.9	0.1	-0.1
Food at home		247.131	247.358	246.920	3.0	-0.1	-0.2
Food away from home		255.348	255.929	256.153	2.6	0.3	0.1
Alcoholic beverages		248.417	247.664	248.508	1.0	0.0	0.3
Housing		262.092	261.938	262.149	1.8	0.0	0.1
Shelter		318.842	319.396	319.239	2.3	0.1	0.0
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾		318.594	319.098	320.069	2.7	0.5	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{(1) (2)} ..		330.115	330.397	330.925	2.0	0.2	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}		329.971	330.250	330.756	2.0	0.2	0.2
Fuels and utilities		221.569	217.529	221.300	1.0	-0.1	1.7
Household energy		199.225	194.932	198.919	0.6	-0.2	2.0
Energy services ⁽¹⁾		188.904	185.338	191.303	2.7	1.3	3.2
Electricity ⁽¹⁾		194.473	191.398	197.266	5.2	1.4	3.1
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾		165.094	160.580	166.432	-3.5	0.8	3.6
Household furnishings and operations		124.274	124.555	123.395	-1.6	-0.7	-0.9
Apparel		134.297	135.262	132.251	0.0	-1.5	-2.2
Transportation		215.981	213.407	208.769	-2.9	-3.3	-2.2
Private transportation		208.854	205.838	200.291	-2.8	-4.1	-2.7
New and used motor vehicles ⁽³⁾		98.456	98.143	97.523	-0.9	-0.9	-0.6
New vehicles		144.073	144.345	144.366	0.1	0.2	0.0
New cars and trucks ^{(3) (4)}		99.805	99.997	100.008	0.1	0.2	0.0
New cars ⁽⁴⁾		136.765	137.102	137.408	-0.8	0.5	0.2

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Northeast Region, (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Sep. 2014	Oct. 2014	Nov. 2014	Nov. 2013	Sep. 2014	Oct. 2014
Used cars and trucks		158.793	155.450	151.540	-2.4	-4.6	-2.5
Motor fuel		289.733	275.024	253.633	-10.3	-12.5	-7.8
Gasoline (all types)		288.488	273.775	252.361	-10.3	-12.5	-7.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽⁴⁾		288.556	273.259	251.127	-10.7	-13.0	-8.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(4) (5)}		297.328	283.490	263.994	-8.8	-11.2	-6.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽⁴⁾		283.400	270.987	253.480	-8.3	-10.6	-6.5
Medical care		457.252	457.876	459.461	2.3	0.5	0.3
Medical care commodities		373.091	373.277	374.465	2.3	0.4	0.3
Medical care services		480.327	481.094	482.795	2.4	0.5	0.4

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Northeast Region, (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Sep. 2014	Oct. 2014	Nov. 2014	Nov. 2013	Sep. 2014	Oct. 2014
Professional services		354.163	355.024	356.199	1.5	0.6	0.3
Recreation ⁽³⁾		119.424	119.389	119.260	-0.7	-0.1	-0.1
Education and communication ⁽³⁾		138.767	138.258	137.975	-0.1	-0.6	-0.2
Other goods and services		442.129	444.767	444.355	2.4	0.5	-0.1
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		195.291	194.139	191.319	-0.7	-2.0	-1.5
Commodities less food and beverages		164.073	162.349	158.474	-2.9	-3.4	-2.4
Nondurables less food and beverages		214.409	211.218	204.421	-3.4	-4.7	-3.2
Durables		108.116	107.800	106.758	-2.2	-1.3	-1.0
Services		309.809	310.037	310.767	1.9	0.3	0.2
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter		231.017	230.220	228.962	0.2	-0.9	-0.5
All items less medical care		244.152	243.685	242.635	0.8	-0.6	-0.4
Commodities less food		167.281	165.581	161.833	-2.8	-3.3	-2.3
Nondurables		232.652	231.082	227.404	-0.3	-2.3	-1.6
Nondurables less food		216.318	213.275	206.943	-3.1	-4.3	-3.0
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾		310.975	310.845	312.590	1.4	0.5	0.6
Services less medical care services		297.963	298.157	298.824	1.8	0.3	0.2
Energy		237.149	228.510	221.924	-4.9	-6.4	-2.9
All items less energy		257.267	257.690	257.316	1.5	0.0	-0.1
All items less food and energy		260.369	260.804	260.392	1.2	0.0	-0.2

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.